

Message Text

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DEPT: PLEASE PASS DR. QUENTIN WEST, USDA

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SUBJECT: REPORT OF US DELEGATION TO SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL
SCIENCES

SUMMARY: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF IICA MET IN ASUNCION MAY 22-25
TO APPROVE 1978-79 BUDGET, EVALUATE PROJECTS, AWARD HONORS IN FIELD
OF AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOP OBJECTIVES FOR FUTURE OF IICA.
END SUMMARY.

THE BOARD MEETING WAS PRECEDED BY A MEETING OF THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE MAY 18-19. BOTH WERE SHORTER THAN PREVIOUSLY AND WITHOUT
CONTENTION, LARGELY DUE TO EXCELLENT PREPARATORY WORK DONE AT THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN SAN JOSE, CASTA RICA, OCTOBER
19-20, 1977. THE INAUGURATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WAS ATTENDED BY THE PRESIDENT OF PARAGUAY, GENERAL ALFREDO
STROESSNER.

1. BUDGET

A. THE 1978-79 BUDGET OF \$9,993,887 (EXCLUDING CUBA) WAS
APPROVED. THIS IS 9.6 PER CENT OVER LAST YEAR AND
INCLUDES \$160,000 TO COVER ACTIONS RECOMMENDED TO
IICA BY THE VII INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON
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AGRICULTURE. INCLUDING US CONTRIBUTIONS FOR
INCOME TAC, OUR INCREASE IS SLIGHTLY OVER 10 PER
CENT. WE VOTED FOR THE BUDGET. IICA'S MEDIUM-
TERM PLAN PROPOSES NO MORE THAN AN 8 PER CENT
INCREASE NEXT YEAR.

B. THE SIMON BOLIVAR FUND PROGRAM IS GOING VERY WELL.
A BUDGET FOR \$3,080,000 WAS APPROVED. SIX

COUNTRIES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE FUND. CANADA ANNOUNCED \$3 MILLION TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE FUND, TIED TO PROJECTS OF CANADA'S CHOICE. THIS INCREASES THE PRESSURE FOR THE US TO FIND A SATISFACTORY WAY TO BECOME PART OF THIS ACTIVITY. C. BUDGET FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS FOR \$8,652,710 WAS APPROVED. THIS MEANS THAT MORE THAN HALF THE OPERATING BUDGET OF IICA IS FROM NON-QUOTA FUNDS. THIS EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE FUNDS CARRYING A FAIR SHARE OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COST. A RESOLUTION WAS PASSED STATING THIS POLICY AND REQUIRING IICA TO DEVELOP ADEQUATE GUIDELINES. D. IICA IS CHANGING ITS FISCAL YEAR TO A CALENDAR YEAR, SO THE BUDGET NEXT YEAR WILL COVER THE SECOND HALF OF 1979 AND ALL OF 1980. E. TEN COUNTRIES HAVE CONTRIBUTED FURNISHING FOR THE NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THE U.S. FURNISH THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM IN HONOR OF HENRY A. WALLACE, WHO WAS THE PRIME MOVER IN STARTING IICA.

2. EVALUATION

EVALUATION OF LINE I, INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LINE VI, STRUCTURAL CHANGE AND CAMPESINO ORGANIZATIONS WAS COMPLETED. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL INDICATED CHANGES HE WAS MAKING AS A RESULT OF THIS EVALUATION. NEXT YEAR UNCLASSIFIED

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AN EVALUATION WILL BE DONE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, LINE III AND SECTORAL PLANNING, LINE VII. THIS WILL COMPLETE THE CYCLE OF PROGRAM LEVEL EVALUATION. THE FOLLOWING YEAR IICA WILL EVALUATE THE GENERAL PLAN IN PREPARATION FOR A NEW FIVE-YEAR MEDIUM-TERM PLAN AND WILL START A SERIES OF PROJECT EVALUATIONS.

3. MEDIUM-TERM INDICATIVE PLAN

THIS PLAN IS NOW IN OPERATION AND GIVES MORE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES AND GUIDELINES TO GOVERN IICA'S OPERATIONS. LINES OF ACTION ARE REORIENTED AND NUMBER OF PROGRAMS REDUCED FROM 27 TO 15. THIS LEADS TO SEVERAL CHANGES IN ASSIGNMENT OF SENIOR OFFICIALS. ALSO, CARLOS MADRID IS RETIRING AND MANUEL RODRIGUEZ WILL BE THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL.

4. IICA AWARDS

THE FOLLOWING WERE SELECTED TO RECEIVE AWARDS THIS YEAR: INTER-AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL MEDAL - ANTONIO PIRES OF ARGENTINA; INTER-AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD - PABLO BURITICA OF COLOMBIA; AND INTER-AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL AWARD FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS - FERNANDO BECKER OF CHILE AND ALEX BUSTILLO OF COLOMBIA. ALSO, SPECIAL RECOGNITION IN THE FORM OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY UNANIMITY WAS GIVEN TO SIMON N. WILSON FOR MORE THAN

30 YEARS OF SUPPORT TO IICA (TEXT FOLLOWS IN SEPTTEL).

U.S. OBJECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE WORK OF IICA

1. ASSURE THAT IICA'S PROGRAMS ARE CONCENTRATED ON RELEVANT DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS OF THE POOR IN RURAL AREAS AND STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE COUNTRIES TO CARRY OUT THESE ACTIONS THIS IS TO BE ACHIEVED BY A SYSTEM OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL EVALUATION, INCLUDING OUR OWN ANALYSES.

2. ENCOURAGE THE SHIFT OF IICA'S RESOURCES TO THE POORER MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE GREATER PARTICIPATION OF THE HIGHER INCOME COUNTRIES IN TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AMONG LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES.

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3. HOLD THE QUOTA BUDGET OF IICA AT THE CURRENT LEVEL IN REAL TERMS, BUT ENCOURAGE THE UTILIZATION OF IICA'S EXPERTISE IN MANAGING PROGRAMS FINANCED BY INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. HOWEVER, THESE NON-QUOTA FUNDS MUST PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE OF GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COSTS.

4. PROMOTE CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN IICA AND FAO AND BETWEEN IICA AND RELEVANT SECTORS OF THE OAS TO IMPROVE THE UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES OF BOTH AGENCIES.

5. PUSH TO GET THE NEW CONVENTION FOR IICA RATIFIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THEN ADOPT NEW GENERAL STANDARDS OF OPERATION FOR IICA.

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